



Guidelines for selecting assessment tools

In selecting tools to assess student learning, consider:

1. **Workload:** Results in a feasible workload for students and graders
2. **Generalizability:** Results are representative of entire program/class
3. **Content:** The assessment tool is clearly aligned with the outcome
4. **Reliability:** Results will be consistent between graders, or if tested again
5. **Actionable:** Provides useful information related to educational experience that can be used for course and/or program improvement

Examples of assessment tools:

- Exam question
- Standardized test (e.g. force concept inventory)
- Performance appraisal (e.g. lab skill assessment)
- Simulation (e.g. emergency simulation)
- Behavioral observation (e.g. team functioning)
- Portfolios (student-selected material)
- Externally scored course materials (e.g. program wide grading of first and fourth year material)
- External examiners (e.g. judge on design project)
- Oral exam (e.g. design project presentation, thesis defence)
- Surveys and questionnaires
- Focus group
- Archival records